SENATE DEM VISION FOR CHILD CARE:

Affordable. Available. High Quality.

Democrats are focused on lowering costs and delivering child care for families across the country.

Leader Schumer and Senators Patty Murray and Elizabeth Warren have laid out how Trump and Republicans have abandoned America's children and families—choosing trillion-dollar tax breaks to the ultra-rich over lowering the cost of child care for families.

Families are paying the price:

- **80% of voters** say that the ability to find or afford child care is a "major problem" or is in a "state of crisis"
- **$13,184 per year** was the national average cost of child care across all ages in 2025
- **46% of children** under the age of 6 live in a child care desert, where there are three or more young children for every one available licensed child care slot.

Trump and Republicans are inflaming the child care crisis: increasing child care costs for families, making it harder for families to get child care, and waging an all-out war on the child care sector.

Democrats are focused on a Day One solution to the child care crisis: affordable care that meets parents' needs while investing in the child care infrastructure and workforce.

Democratic Vision for Child Care

1. Lower costs for families

Democrats are focused on lowering child care costs for families. In the richest nation in the world, no family should be burdened by the cost of child care. Child care should be affordable for all families.

Bottom line: Child care costs should be affordable.

2. Increase the supply of child care

Democrats are focused on building a strong and stable public infrastructure for child care. We need to increase the supply of high-quality child care so that families can find the child care they need. Without federal funding to expand and stabilize the child care sector and support child care providers, prices will keep rising and programs will keep closing, making the crisis worse for parents and providers.

Bottom line: If you need child care, you should be able to get it.

3. Invest in our child care workforce

Democrats are focused on increasing pay and expanding access to benefits for child care workers. Without the child care workforce, there is no child care for children and families. We must invest in our workforce so that every child care worker is paid a living wage, with access to benefits, paid leave, retirement, and professional development. If we don't invest in the child care workforce, American families won't have the high-quality child care they need and America's businesses won't have a strong reliable workforce.

Bottom line: Child care workers deserve a living wage and access to benefits.

4. Ensure high-quality

Democrats are focused on ensuring high-quality child care and early childhood education programs. Programs should be high quality to support children's development and learning. Parents want to choose care and early education programs where their children are safe, happy, and learning. The federal government has clear responsibility to support expansion of high-quality programs so children's learning needs are met, and parents can find the high-quality programs they seek.

Bottom line: Families want their children to be enrolled in high-quality programs.

5. Child care should be accessible

Democrats are focused on meeting families where they are. The child care system needs to work for everyone. Families should be able to get support for nontraditional hours, inclusive care for children with disabilities and developmental needs, language access, and culturally responsive services.

Bottom line: Give families what they need.

6. Act now to address the child care crisis

Democrats are focused on urgent implementation to fix the child care crisis. We must implement a Day One solution to the child care crisis as fast as possible, so that families get relief from crushing child care costs, workers are fairly compensated, and the families can access the child care they need.

Bottom line: We need to act now to address the child care crisis.